

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 02975 211020Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 TRSE-00 XMB-02
OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 H-01
NSC-05 SS-15 STR-07 CEA-01 PA-01 DOE-15 SOE-02
IO-13 OES-07 INT-05 /150 W
-----124091 211022Z /23/61

R 200423Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3034
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMCONSUL SYDNEY
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CLASSIFICATION--LOU VICE CONFIDENTIAL)

USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

USOECN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EEC, AS
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SUBJ: EC-AUSTRALIAN RELATIONS

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 7512, (B) CANBERRA 2861, (C) CANBERRA 2571
(ALL NOTAL)

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. THE AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL REVIEW (AFR) TODAY EDITORIALIZES AONIMR. FRASER'S CRITICISM OF THE EEC (BRUSSELS 7216) UNDER THE HEADING: "HAS GRANDEUR GOT TO MR. FRASER". THE AFR GOES ON TO SAY:

"SOMETHING ODD IS HAPPENING IN THE FRASER GOVERNMENT -- THERE IS A NEW AND DISTURBING ELEMENT WHICH HAS, AS YET, NO LOGICAL EXPLANATION.

"ON FRIDAY THE PRIME MINISTER LASHED OUT AT THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY IN TERMS WHICH WERE LAST HEARD IN THE DAYS WHEN REX CONNOR WAS GIVEN TO BEING BLUNT AND INTERMPERATE ABOUT WHOEVER OR WHATEVER DISPLEASED HIM.

P" ON MONDAY THE MINISTER FOR DEFENSE, MR. J. KILLEN, EMERGED AS A LATTER DAY ECONOMIC PROPHET WARNING US ALL THAT THE INTERNATIONAL BATTLE FOR COMMODITY MARKETS WAS THREATENING TO PRODUCE THE 'WORST GLOBAL CRISIS SINCE THE 1930S.'

"ON TUESDAY PRIME MINISTER FRASER FLEW OFF TO JAPAN ON AN URGENT BUT RATHER CRYPTIC TRIP TO SEE PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA TO DISCUSS THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SCENE.

"BEFORE DOING SO HE DELIVERED A SPEECH TO THE NATION, A RARE PIECE OF STAGE MANAGED PROPAGANDA USUALLY RESERVED FOR EVENTS OF GENUINE NATIONAL CONCERN.

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"COMING FROM MR. FRASER THIS ORCHESTRATED OPERATION, WHICH IS SO FAR THANKFULLY MEETING ONLY BEMUSED LOOKS FROM THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE, IS OUT OF CHARACTER.

"THE CONTENT OF HIU CRITICISM OF EEC TRADING POLICIES IS LEGITIMATE, EVEN IF THE TIMING AND MANNER IS STRANGE. THE EUROPEANS HAVE BEEN INSULAR AND SELF-SERVING FOR YEARS BUT PARTICULAR6 SINCE THE DAYS OF THE OIL CRISIS IN 1973. IT IS FROM THAT EVENT THE OPPRESSIVE POLICIES AGAINST AUSTRALIAN PRIMARY EXPORT PRODUCTS DATE."

2. THE AFR CONCLUDES, INTER ALIA, BU SUGGESTING THAT AUSTRALIA'S PROBLEMS ARE REALLY PART OF A MULTINATIONAL ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS; THE INFERENCE TO BE DRAWN (FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S TRIP TO JAPAN) IS THAT AUSTRALIA IS SEEKING TO FORGE SOME SORT OF COMMON FRONT WITH JAPAN; FOR ALL THEIR SELF-SERVING REMARKS THE BUREAUCRATS OF BRUSSELS HAVE A POINT AT THE MOMENT IN SUGGESTING THAT THE SPECIFIC AREAS OF CONCERN TO AUSTRALIA ARE SHARED BY CANADA, THE U.S. AND NEW ZEALAND -- NOT JAPAN; AND, THAT THIS SUGGESTS THE BEST AUSTRALIAN STRATEGY IS ONE OF PERSISTENT BUT NOT RAUCOUS EFFORTS TO FINF HOLES IN THE MARKET.

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3. ITALIAN ECON COUNSELOR MARTINI TOLD EMBOFF EVECUNG OF APRIL 19 THAT SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND RESOURCES J.SCULLY CALLED IN THE EEC AMBASSADORS YESTERDAY, IN WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS "IN A VERY CONCILIATORY MOOD", AS CONTRASTED WITH THE STRIDENT SESSION OF APRIL 6(CANBERRA 2571) AND STATED, INTER ALIA, THAT THE GOA EXPECTS MINISTER GRALAND TO CONTINUE HIS ROUNDS IN THE EEC COUNTRIES NOTWITHSTANDING THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE EEC-AUSTRALIAN CONSULTATIONS (BRUSSELS 7216) AND EXPECTS THAT THE MINISTER WILL HAVE USEFUL TALKS PRIOR TO THE EEC-
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AUSTRALIAN CONSULTATIONS NOW SCHEDULED FOR THE SECOND WEEK OF JUNE. MARTINI SAID THAT THE DANISH AMBASSADOR, AS SPOKESMAN FOR THE EEC GROUP, SUGGESTED THAT AUSTRALIA'S PERCEIVED PROBLEMS ARE REALLY PART OF MTN NEGOTIATIONS BUT THAT SCULLY CHOSE TO IGNORE THIS. OUR ASSESSMENT IS THAT, NOTWITHSTANDING WHAT THE PRESS SAYS ABOUT THE PLACE OF THE MTN NEGOTIATIONS THE GOA WILL GO ALONG ITS MERRY WAY WITH ITS PRIME MINISOER AND HIS MINISTERS CHARGING ALL OVER THE PLACE (CANBERRA 2861) FOR PURPOSES AS THE PRESS SAYS THAT " AS YET, HAVE NO LOGICAL EXPLANATION".
ALSTON

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